*The* LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
# Information Bulletin

**Vol. 58, No. 5** **May 1999**

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
200
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## The Work of Charles and Ray Eames

*The* LIBRARY *of* CONGRESS
# Information Bulletin

Vol. 58, No. 5 May 1999

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS BICENTENNIAL
2000
LIBRARIES • CREATIVITY • LIBERTY

JAMES H. BILLINGTON
Librarian of Congress

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GUY LAMOLINARA, Editor
JOHN H. SAYERS, Production

# Gifts to the Nation

## *Jerry Jones Donates $1 Million to Restore Jefferson's Library*

BY GAIL FINEBERG

The Library kicked off its Bicentennial Gifts to the Nation Project on April 14 with a news conference announcing a $1 million gift to replace books lost in an 1851 fire that burned nearly two-thirds of Thomas Jefferson's library, which Congress had bought for $23,950 in 1815.

Jerry Jones, owner and general manager of the Dallas Cowboys, and his wife, Gene, presented their gift to the Library during a semiannual meeting of the Library's Madison Council, which they have supported for the past seven years.

Handing Dr. Billington the first book purchased with their gift, *Hermes or a Philosophical Inquiry Concerning Universal Grammar*, 2nd ed., 1765 (London), by James Harris, Mr. Jones noted that the Madison Council exists to promote private support for the Library, which will celebrate its Bicentennial in 2000 (**www.loc.gov/bicentennial**).

Mr. Jones, who was inspired by Dr. Billington's enthusiasm for the Library and its national treasures, explained that Madison Council members raise and give funds that supplement the Library's annual appropriations from Congress. For example, Madison Council gifts have enabled the Library to digitize materials for on-line distribution, purchase rare materials and promote scholarship.

"This building must be recognized," Mr. Jones said, glancing around the mahogany and gilt of the Librarian's formal office in the Jefferson Building. "This is where the real things are."

By lending high-profile support to the Library as well as the Dallas Cowboys, "We're saying, 'Let's all get in here when we can and support the Library of Congress,'" Mr. Jones said. "All the people of this country should put their heritage in this cultural institution."

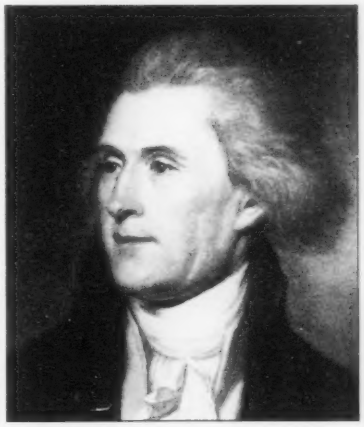
Receiving the Joneses' gift, Dr. Billington thanked them and talked about the value of reconstituting Jefferson's original library, which was the "seed" of the Library's vast collections today. "Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Gene and Jerry Jones we will be able to reconstruct ... the original library of this universal man [Jefferson], who, more than anyone, created the United States."

Glen Krankowski

**Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones and his wife, Gene, present Dr. Billington with a copy of *Hermes, or a Philosophical Inquiry Concerning Universal Grammar* to launch the effort to reconstruct Thomas Jefferson's library.**

By studying the breadth of Jefferson's interests and knowledge, as reflected by the books in his library and his annotated and edited manuscripts, "you can see his mind at work," Dr. Billington said.

The Librarian briefed the press on the history of the Jefferson library. After the British burned the U.S. Capitol and with it Congress's library, on Aug. 24, 1814, Jefferson — by then retired from presidential office and strapped for money — offered to sell his personal library to Congress. Both houses consented — after sharp debate — and on Jan. 30, 1815, President James Madison signed a bill authorizing the purchase of 6,487 volumes for $23,950. Years later, at about 7:30 a.m. on Dec. 24, 1851, a fire broke out in the principal library room of the Capitol and destroyed approximately 35,000 of the Library's 55,000 volumes, including nearly two-thirds of the Jefferson collection. (The Library of Congress was in the Capitol Building from 1800 until 1897, when the Jefferson Building opened.)



**This life portrait of Jefferson was painted in 1791 by Charles Willson Peale in Philadelphia.**

Dr. Billington said that with the Joneses' gift the Library is launching a worldwide search via the Internet and

*continued on page 102*

# John Kluge Honored

## *Founding Chairman of Madison Council Recognized for Philanthrophy*

By GAIL FINEBERG

A modest man, whose philanthropy is making a difference in classrooms that have computer access to the Library's American Memory historical collections (**www.loc.gov**), smiled shyly in the Library limelight April 13 as his Madison Council colleagues and Dr. Billington thanked him for his leadership and generosity during the past nine years.

As the founding chairman of the Madison Council, the Library's private sector support group, in 1990 and one of two founding sponsors of the National Digital Library Program, John W. Kluge, president of Metromedia Co., led a successful campaign to raise $45 million from the private sector, to be matched by $15 million in appropriated public funds, to digitize one-of-a-kind historic documents archived at the Library and other repositories across the nation and make them available worldwide via the Internet. Mr. Kluge himself gave $10 million, and the campaign exceeded its goal.

Said Dr. Billington at a reception honoring Mr. Kluge and the council's other corporate and foundation sponsors, "We at the Library owe a great debt to John, not only for this achievement, but also for being the founder and strength behind the Madison Council for the past nine years."

The Librarian noted that the Madison Council has funded more than 170 projects "aiming to open up this institution by both bringing people in and getting knowledge out." These projects include, in addition to the National Digital Library (NDL) Program, acquisitions of rare materials, funding for research and scholarship, exhibitions and related symposia.

"This support has given birth to a new entrepreneurial spirit throughout the Library. Our curators and managers now know that their ideas and initiatives that improve services, enrich the collections and make them more accessible will be rewarded and supported," Dr. Billington said.

Rep. William M. Thomas (R-Calif.), chairman of the House Committee on Administration and vice chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, who was present at the inception of the National Digital Library Program, thanked both Dr. Billington and Mr. Kluge for their leadership in joining public and private sectors in an enterprise that benefits the American public.

"These are the kinds of events Congress loves," he said. "This public-private partnership is exactly the way we like it. As it was appropriate for Thomas Jefferson to offer his books to start the Library, it is totally appropriate in the 21st century to figuratively knock down the walls of this Library and give all Americans a chance to enjoy the fruits of our culture through the National Digital Library."

Dining by candlelight in the coral, gilt and marble grandeur of the Jefferson Building's Northwest Curtain, more than 200 guests, including members of Congress, Madison Council members and other Library supporters, and friends of Mr. Kluge, witnessed some results of the donors' generosity.

"Look at what it is you all have made possible," said the NDL Program's Robert G. Zich, indicating two large monitors displaying digital images from the American Memory collections. Selections included Thomas Jefferson's handwritten rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, Civil War photographs, George Washington's papers, the earliest motion pictures by Thomas Edison and a sound recording of a speech by Franklin Roosevelt. "These are being seen and used in classrooms throughout the nation."

Joyce Naltchayan

**John Kluge, chairman of the James Madison Council, speaks at the evening in his honor at the Library.**

Mr. Zich said the NDL Program "is recognized as the leading source of educational materials on the Internet." The Library's Web site averages 3.5 million hits every working day from users all over the world, he said. How these resources can stimulate learning in the classroom was illustrated by testimony from history teacher Laura Wakefield.

After dinner, Mr. Kluge and the NDL charter sponsors — those who gave $1 million or more to the project — were paid special tribute during a Coolidge

Auditorium ceremony. Ray Smith, chairman of Rothschild, North America, and former chairman and chief executive officer of Bell Atlantic Corp., surprised Mr. Kluge by reading a poem that Mr. Smith wrote on the way home from an NDL fund-raising effort, where, he said, his description of a visit to an urban New Jersey School had touched Mr. Kluge.

Mr. Smith portrayed Mr. Kluge not only as a "giant of a man, an Arthur who pulls financial swords from rigid stones," but also as "a gentle man," one who responds with "an unembarrassed tear" upon hearing of a child in an urban school, "who with a virtuoso's flair scans computer screens that he says he has learned to love and draws from it a picture from a library, a page of pure delight, a portrait from somewhere in the universe, well hidden but in a place he has learned to find again and again.

"This child knows those places and where those pictures hide, and he has learned those secrets in a happy way that no one had to teach him, and somewhere in that journey he's become that child he always thought he ought to be, one who knows a lot of stuff and likes to show others how to do it.

"But what he didn't know was, there was a man, who, with a shy, dismissive shrug, placed all those treasures there for that little child to find.

"All those million, million kids ... all those unborn virtuosos of the keyboard, who, if they knew, would say of all that cool, keen stuff to see, 'John Kluge put it there for me.'"

Mr. Kluge thanked Mr. Smith and the Librarian for their remarks and Madison Council members for their support of the NDL Program and the Library. Remarking on the council's growth to more than 100 members, Mr. Kluge said, "During these years as chairman, I have had the privilege of seeing the unfolding of a wonderful success story — the story of how a group of committed and generous people from the private sector focused its resources in a public institution and made a major change for the good."

By funding numerous programs "that inform, enlighten and inspire people of all ages," Mr. Kluge said, the Madison Council "has propelled the Library beyond its government-supported role to become a leader in education and scholarship and a key player in the information revolution."

Joyce Naltchayan

**Dr. Billington and founding sponsor John Kluge (back row, center) with 16 charter sponsors of the National Digital Library**

Mr. Kluge received a large frame containing a color photo of the Great Hall and three letters of appreciation, from former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, Vice President Al Gore and Dr. Billington.

Vice President Gore wrote: "This vital initiative of the Library of Congress leads the way to a new millennium by providing unique, high-quality educational content for Internet users throughout the nation and the world. America cannot afford to have some of our citizens use essential technological tools while others are left behind to use the resources of the last century. Thank you for doing your part to bridge the divide and ensure every effort is made to leave no one behind."

Joyce Naltchayan

**Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) and Dr. Billington exchange information.**

Said Mr. Gingrich: "Your involvement in this project constitutes a great service to our nation. By increasing the American people's access to knowledge, which is the key to a free society, you have strengthened our democracy. And by amplifying the opportunity for all our citizens to learn about our country's past and imagine her future, you have helped transform America."

Dr. Billington wrote: "Your support has helped open up a new, free pathway to knowledge for local communities throughout the United States. You have provided food for the intellectual curiosity, entrepreneurial energy and civic spirit of Americans of all backgrounds in the 21st century."

Council members and guests then enjoyed a program of American music played at the piano by Marvin Hamlisch, award-winning composer of music for Broadway shows and movies ("The Way We Were," "The Sting," "Ordinary People," "Sophie's Choice," *A Chorus Line)* and the new permanent conductor of the National Symphony Orchestra Pops.

*continued on page 111*

# Pinsky Reappointed to Third Term

## *Dove, Glück, Merwin Named Consultants in Poetry*

In preparation for the Bicentennial year of the Library of Congress in 2000, Dr. Billington has announced a "once-in-a-century" series of appointments for the Library's poetry program.

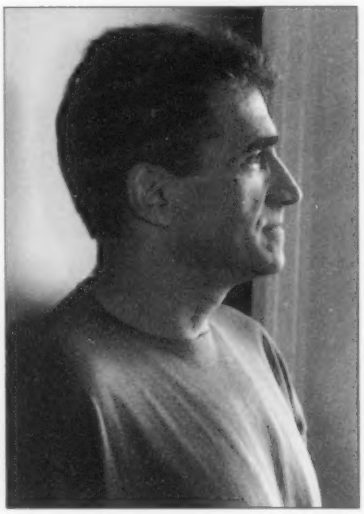
The Librarian has named the current Poet Laureate, Robert Pinsky, to serve an unprecedented third term. In addition, the Librarian has named three Special Consultants to assist with the poetry programs of the Bicentennial year. The three Special Consultants are former Poet Laureate Rita Dove, Louise Glück and W.S. Merwin. They will be compensated by privately raised Bicentennial funds.

"We want to create a once-in-a-century arrangement, not only to celebrate poetry during our 200th birthday, but also to significantly increase support for the national outreach of the Poetry Office and the Poet Laureate," said Dr. Billington.

"The three Special Consultants are all poets of great distinction," Dr. Billington added, "who, in addition to participating in our Bicentennial poetry events, will strengthen the Library's poetry program to meet the demands now expected of it." All appointments will take effect in October 1999.

"Robert Pinsky is well suited to be the first Poet Laureate to serve three consecutive terms. His Favorite Poem Project has captured the imagination of young and old across the nation and heightened awareness of the Library of Congress's role as the home of America's poetry archives and its Poets Laureate," said the Librarian, who first appointed Mr. Pinsky in 1997 and reappointed him in 1998. Mr. Pinsky is the ninth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry and the 39th person to occupy the seat.

Mr. Pinsky will continue to direct the popular Favorite Poem Project, which has for the past two years been collecting audio and video recordings of Americans from all parts of the country reading or reciting aloud a favorite poem. In April of 2000, which is the Library's Bicentennial and National Poetry Month, 1,000 audio and 200 video recordings will be presented to the Library. The Favorite Poem archives will be one of the Library's Bicentennial "Gifts to the Nation," and will illustrate what poetry means to Americans from many walks of life at the end of the century.



N. Alicia Byers

Robert Pinsky

The presentation will be made during a special Bicentennial conference on "Poetry and the American People: Reading, Performance and Publication." The conference will be held April 3-4, 2000, at the Library of Congress, and will include readings by the Special Consultants and the Poet Laureate.

The tapes created for the Favorite Poem Project will become part of the Library of Congress's extensive Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature, which includes readings by more than 2,000 poets during the second half of the 20th century.

Mr. Pinsky teaches in the graduate creative writing program at Boston University. His collections of poetry include *Sadness and Happiness* (1975); *An Explanation of America* (1979), awarded the Saxifrage Prize; *History of My Heart* (1983), which won the William Carlos Williams Prize; *The Want Bone* (1990); *and The Figured Wheel: New and Collected Poems, 1965-1995*, which won the Lenore Marshall Prize. The anthology *The Handbook of Heartbreak: 101 Poems of Lost Love and Sorrow* and *The Sounds of Poetry: A Brief Guide* were published recently.

Ms. Dove, who was 1993-95 Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry, is Commonwealth Professor of English at the University of Virginia; her most recent book is *On the Bus with Rosa Parks* (1999). Her other works include the poetry collections *Grace Notes* (1989); *Selected Poems* (1993); *Mother Love* (1995); the novel *Through the Ivory Gate* (1992); and the verse *play The Darker Face of the Earth* (1994), which will open at the Royal National Theatre in London this summer. In 1987, her poetry collection *Thomas and Beulah* (1986) won the Pulitzer Prize. Ms. Dove most recently was honored with the 1996 Heinz Award in the Arts and Humanities, the 1996 Charles Frankel Prize/ National Medal in the Humanities, the 1997 Sara Lee Frontrunner Award and the 1998 Levinson Prize.

Ms. Glück, who has appeared in the Library's literary series on several occasions, including as the winner of the Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry, is Preston S. Parish Third Century Lecturer in English at Williams College. She most recently taught at Harvard and at Brandeis University, where she was Hurst Professor. Her collections of poetry include *The Triumph of Achilles* (1985), which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Poetry, the Boston Globe Literary Press Award for Poetry, and the Poetry Society of America's Melville Kane Award; *Ararat* (1990), which won the 1992 Bobbitt Prize; *The Wild Iris* (1992), which won the Pulitzer Prize; *Meadowlands* (1996); and *Vita Nova* (1999). She is also the author *of Descending Figure* (1980).

Mr. Merwin, whose most recent appearance at the Library was in 1997, is the author of the collections *The Carrier of Ladders* (1970), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize; *The Compass Flower* (1977); *The Rain in the Trees* (1988); *The Vixen* (1996); *Flower & Hand: Poems, 1977-1983* (1997); and *The River Sound* (1999). His translations include *Selected Translations 1948-1968* (1968), for which he won the PEN Translation Prize; *Osip Mandelstam, Selected Poems*

(1974, with Clarence Brown); *Iphigeneia at Aulis of Euripides,* with George Dimock (1978); *Vertical Poetry,* a selection of poems by Roberto Juarroz (1988); and *Sun at Midnight,* a selection of poems by Mnuso Soseki, translated with Soiku Shigematsu (1989).

### Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress

The Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress is appointed annually by the Librarian of Congress and serves from October to May.

In making the appointment, the Librarian consults with former Consultants and Laureates, the current Laureate and distinguished poetry critics.

The position has existed for 61 years under two separate titles: from 1937 to 1986 as Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress and from 1986 forward as Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry. The name was changed by an act of Congress in 1985.

The Laureate receives a $35,000 annual stipend funded by a gift from Archer M. Huntington. The Library keeps to a minimum the specific duties in order to afford incumbents maximum freedom to work on their own projects while at the Library. The Laureate gives an annual lecture and reading of his or her poetry and usually introduces poets in the Library's annual poetry series, the oldest in the Washington area, and among the oldest in the United States. This annual series of public poetry and fiction readings, lectures, symposia and occasional dramatic performances began in the 1940s. Collectively the Laureates have brought more than 2,000 poets and authors to the library to read for the Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature.

Each Laureate brings a different emphasis to the position. Joseph Brodsky initiated the idea of providing poetry in airports, supermarkets and hotel rooms. Maxine Kumin started a popular series of poetry workshops for women at the Library.

Gwendolyn Brooks met with elementary school students to encourage them to write poetry.

Rita Dove brought together writers to explore the African diaspora through the eyes of its artists. She also championed children's poetry and jazz with poetry events.

Robert Hass organized the "Watershed" conference that brought together noted novelists, poets and storytellers to talk about writing, nature and community.

The current Laureate, Robert Pinsky, is selecting a broad cross section of Americans reading their favorite poems aloud as part of the Library's Bicentennial. In the year 2000, when the Library celebrates its 200th birthday, 200 video and 1,000 audio tapes of poetry readings will be added to the Archive of Recorded Poetry and Literature as one of the Library's birthday "Gifts to the Nation."

### Consultants in Poetry and Poets Laureate Consultants in Poetry to the Library of Congress

Joseph Auslander, 1937-41
*(Auslander's appointment to the Poetry chair had no fixed term)*
Allen Tate, 1943-44
Robert Penn Warren, 1944-45
Louise Bogan, 1945-46
Karl Shapiro, 1946-47
Robert Lowell, 1947-48
Leonie Adams, 1948-49
Elizabeth Bishop, 1949-50
Conrad Aiken, 1950-52
*(first to serve two terms)*
William Carlos Williams
*(appointed in 1952 but did not serve)*
Randall Jarrell, 1956-58
Robert Frost, 1958-59
Richard Eberhart, 1959-61
Louis Untermeyer, 1961-63
Howard Nemerov, 1963-64
Reed Whittemore, 1964-65
Stephen Spender, 1965-66
James Dickey, 1966-68
William Jay Smith, 1968-70
William Stafford, 1970-71
Josephine Jacobsen, 1971-73
Daniel Hoffman, 1973-74
Stanley Kunitz, 1974-76
Robert Hayden, 1976-78
William Meredith, 1978-80
Maxine Kumin, 1981-82
Anthony Hecht, 1982-84
Robert Fitzgerald, 1984-85
*(appointed and served in a health-limited capacity, but did not come to the Library)*
Reed Whittemore, 1984-85
*(Interim Consultant in Poetry)*
Gwendolyn Brooks, 1985-86
Robert Penn Warren, 1986-87
*(first to be designated Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry)*
Richard Wilbur, 1987-88
Howard Nemerov, 1988-90
Mark Strand, 1990-91
Joseph Brodsky, 1991-92
Mona Van Duyn, 1992-93
Rita Dove, 1993-95
Robert Hass, 1995-97
Robert Pinsky, 1997-2000
*(first to serve three consecutive terms. Special Consultants in 1999-2000: Rita Dove, Louise Glück and W.S. Merwin)* ◆

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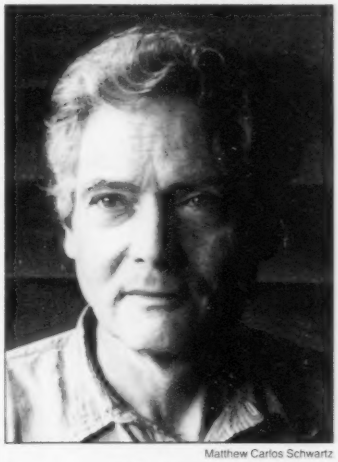
**Rita Dove**

James Baker Hall

**Louise Glück**



Matthew Carlos Schwartz

**W.S. Merwin**

# 'This Poem Reflects Me'

## *Pinsky Brings Favorite Poem Project to the Library*

By YVONNE FRENCH

Patch Adams, M.D., about whom a major motion picture starring Robin Williams was made, led a group of 25 Washingtonians in reading their favorite poems aloud April 7 in the Coolidge Auditorium.

Mr. Adams is author of *Gesundheit!: Bringing Good Health to You, the Medical System and Society Through Physician Service, Complementary Therapies, Humor and Joy.* He advocates universal free health care. He gave a dramatic recitation of portions of Walt Whitman's "Song of the Open Road," saying he loves the poem "because poetry is a celebration of life. This poem reflects me. I celebrate life."

Mr. Adams wore his long gray hair in a ponytail with several elastics along its length. A patch on his head to the left of his center part was dyed blue. He wore a Hawaiian shirt with a multicolored tie, tie-died balloon pants, one orange and one blue sock and black tennis shoes. One fork-shaped earring dangled and swung as he recited Walt Whitman's conclusion: "the efflux of the soul is happiness."

If Mr. Adams's outfit was like a rainbow, the other persons who read were a veritable United Nations of Washington: African American, Peruvian, Italian, a Native American, Chinese, Russian. Their cacophony of accents was unified by the rhythm of the poetry that now harangued, now lulled about 250 listeners into a state of heightened awareness.

Mr. Pinsky said one of the unexpected fruits of the Favorite Poem readings is the way the audience forms a community of listeners as the readers and reciters share why the poem is meaningful to them.

Said Mr. Pinsky: "You get this feeling of respect and attention in these civic forums," of which there have been 15 official — and almost 300 unofficial — readings, and probably many more that go unreported to the Favorite Poem Project director at Mr. Pinsky's Boston University office.

"These transcendently wonderful moments come along and you sense the audience cheering up," Mr. Pinsky told a handful of reporters before the reading, which came just as the Library announced his unprecedented reappointment to a third consecutive term as Poet Laureate (see story on page 94). "Each person is showing you a treasure," Mr. Pinsky said later in remarks prior to the Coolidge Auditorium readings.

N. Alicia Byers

N. Alicia Byers

N. Alicia Byers

**"Favorite Poem" readers included Patch Adams (left), Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Marvin Dickinson, vice president of the Stay in Schools Foundation.**

Dr. Billington said he liked the poem "Little Gidding" by T.S. Eliot because it "brings a spiritual dimension into our daily lives." He told how Eliot wrote the poem in 1942 as bombs fell on London and explained several interpretations of its elusive text. He confided that he personally interprets the "tongues of fire" in the poem as "the slow fire that consumes us: our own self-preoccupations."

Philip Bobbitt, the creator of the Library's Rebekah Johnson Bobbitt National Prize for Poetry, read "Preparation," by Czeslaw Milosz, whose poetry both Robert Pinsky and 1996-1997 Poet Laureate Robert Hass helped to translate from Polish. "Our prayers are with the 600,000 refugees from the Yugoslav war and the soldiers who have gone to Eastern Europe," said Mr. Bobbitt, who is Lyndon Johnson's nephew. His cousin, Linda Johnson Robb, was in the audience. Milosz's poem recalls earlier strife in Eastern Europe: "Thus: armies/Running across frozen plains, shouting a curse/ In a many-voiced chorus; the cannon of a tank/ Growing immense at the corner of a street; the ride at dusk/ Into a camp with watchtowers and barbed wire."

Others who read included Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), (Sonnet 127, by William Shakespeare); Roslyn Walker, director of the National Museum of African Art, ("The Negro Speaks of Rivers," by Langston Hughes); Nobel Laureate Harold Varmus, director of the National Institutes of Health ("To His Coy Mistress," by Andrew Marvell); Cliff Becker, director of the Literature Program at the National Endowment for the Arts ("Keeping Things Whole," by Mark Strand). "We try to do that at the NEA," he said.

"Some poets write with such power and immediacy that they can convince you the poem is about your own life, but it's not," said the final reader, Edward Weismiller, who was billed as 'novelist, counterspy and poet," in the program. He read John Donne's "Twickenham Garden" because "it involves me in a way I can't explain." When he recited it, the audience may have understood with him what it is in a poem that words can't — but somehow do — convey. ◆

*Ms. French is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.*

# Apprentice Poets

## *Young Bards Celebrate National Poetry Month*

By CHRISTINA TYLER

Be careful what you say around Demario John Greene. He might write a poem or short story about it. That's how the 12-year-old got the idea for his poem called "Love," which he read at the Young People's Poetry Week program April 7 in the Library.

Demario is one of six Washington, D.C., preteens who read original poems during the program for young poets that celebrates National Poetry Month.

A sixth-grader at Anne Beers Elementary School, he is not old enough to have experienced all kinds of love, but he can tell you about what he has learned by listening to music and adult conversations — and from reading his poem with conviction, "Love." His poem reads:

*Love, do we see it?*
*Love, do we feel it?*
*When we say it do we mean it?*
*When we feel it, do we really feel it?*
*When we feel it, do we sense it?*
*Isn't that what love is?*
*A sense of care, a sense of protection.*
*When you say "I love you,"*
*you give your heart.*
*Love is stronger than anything.*
*Love is something that is to*
*be cherished.*
*Love is something many people claim.*
*But I put a question to you*
*to evaluate: When you say,*
*'I love you,' do you mean it?*

Nikki Grimes and Judith Viorst write poetry for children and adults. They said they lose themselves in the pages of books and write from their experiences. Ms. Viorst said writing poetry for different age groups isn't difficult for her — the feelings are conveyed the same, but the images of childhood and adulthood are different.

Young poet Charles Davis (left) was impressed listening to the professional poets, because the fifth-grader did not know poets could make a living with their work. His parents said they did not know their son had an intense need to write poetry and this was the first time they had heard their son read his work.

"I knew Charles had a knack for metaphors," said Andy Fogle, a published poet who teaches at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., works with the D.C. Writers Corps and mentors students at Stewart-Hobson Middle School. "He's funny, he can perform the poems — all that in an 11-year-old."

N. Alicia Byers

**The readers gathered with Young Peoples Poetry Week founder Paula Quint, president of the Childrens Book Council. Charles Davis (left), of Stuart-Hobson Middle School; Harriet Blair Rowan, of Oyster Bilingual School; Demario Greene, of Beers Elementary School; Ayanna Murray-Mazwi, also of Oyster; Jorge Orozco, of Bancroft Elementary School; and Rexannah Wyse, also of Bancroft.**

The children's poems were selected from hundreds of entries from throughout Washington. Each child represented a different area of the city.

National Young People's Poetry Week is sponsored by the Children's Book Council in New York. This event in the Jefferson Building was sponsored by the Library's Center for the Book and the Poetry and Literature Center, in cooperation with the District Lines Poetry Project of the Federation of Friends of the District of Columbia Library.

The Center for the Book doesn't have a Washington, D.C., chapter yet, but 36 states do. The children who read their work April 7 were selected with the help of the city library, volunteer writing coaches and writers groups.

Roxannah Wyse, with her hair pulled back and wearing a blue and purple ankle-length dress, made the crowd laugh with her animated voice describing Earth, its leaves, candy and potato chips.

Ayanna Murray-Mazwi described magical places she sees in her dreams.

Jorge Orozco personified a house in his poem, describing what a house sees inside itself and how it loves and cares for its inhabitants.

Harriet Blair Rowan described herself in her self-named poem as "Harriet, reader, writer, swimmer, sleeper ... one who needs good friends, resident of Washington, D.C."

The crowd chuckled at Charles Davis's description of food as he stood behind the podium wearing a blue plaid shirt and oval, wire-rimmed glasses. "Food, I have to overcome my love for you. Food, stop mocking me. ... Food, you are hard to resist." Then he got more serious as he read his poem about the moon: "Like a big marble, shining through the night with its precious light."

"I hope to someday write a book — a collection of poems and an autobiographical story about how I got started writing," he said. ◆

*Ms. Tyler is assistant editor of the Library's staff newspaper,* The Gazette.

# Competition Winners Announced

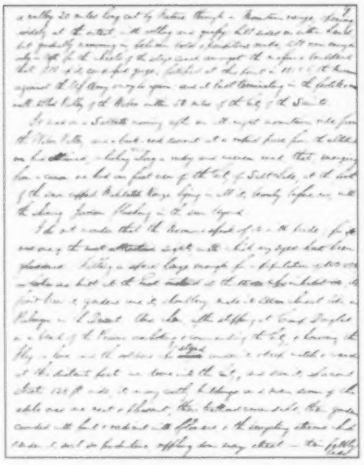
## *Final Round of LC/Ameritech NDL Program*

The Library has announced the twelve winners in the third and final round of the Library of Congress/ Ameritech National Digital Library Competition. The program, in which Ameritech donated $2 million to the Library's National Digital Library (NDL) Program, has made awards to 33 institutions, including the 12 that will receive awards either alone or as part of a consortium this year.

The competition has enabled U.S. libraries, archives, museums and historical societies to digitize their collections of American historical materials for inclusion in the American Memory electronic collections of the Library of Congress (**www.loc.gov**). The competition also helps fulfill the Library's goal of placing, in cooperation with other institutions, 5 million items online by 2000, the Bicentennial of the Library of Congress. The NDL Program is one of the Library's major birthday "Gifts to the Nation."

"Congratulations to the award winners and to Ameritech for its role in launching this pioneering project," said Dr. Billington. "Today's winners will join the others from the previous two years in helping make the National Digital Library Program truly national in scope."

**From the Michigan State University and Central Michigan University collection**



**A document from the collections of the Utah academic libraries consortium**

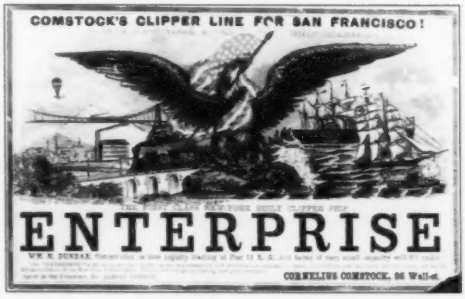
"Ameritech was once again wowed by yet another group of very deserving winners," said Lana Porter, president of Ameritech Library Services. "We are extremely proud to have helped make it possible for so many valuable collections, from so many prestigious libraries, to be digitized for easy access to everyone via the Internet."

The 1998-99 Library of Congress/ Ameritech National Digital Library Competition award winners are:

- **Lee Library at Brigham Young University** (lead institution), **University of Utah, Utah State University,** and the **Utah State Historical Society**, for "Pioneer Trails: Overland to Utah and the Pacific." Amount of award: $64,875. The Utah academic libraries consortium's digital collection consists of 155 items from 59 diaries of pioneers trekking westward on the Overland Trail, across America to Utah and the Pacific between 1847 and 1869. In addition to the diaries, the collection includes 16 maps, 75 photographs and illustrations, and selections from five immigrant guides.

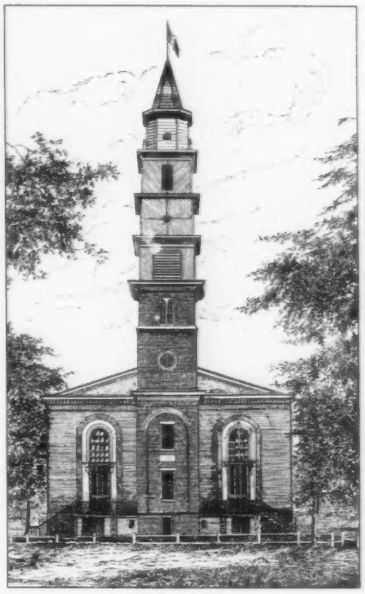
- **Michigan State University** (lead institution) **and Central Michigan University,** for "Shaping the Values of Youth: A Nineteenth Century American Sunday School Book Collection." Amount of award: $123,763. This collection is a representative selection of 121 American Sunday school books from the Russel B. Nye Popular Culture Collection and the Clarke Historical Library. Published primarily between 1815 and 1865 by the American Tract Society, the American Sunday School Union and other religious publishers, these books for juvenile readers taught moral conduct and good citizenship. The books cover a wide range of subjects deemed particularly useful and important for socializing early 19th century youth, including history, holidays, slavery, African Americans, Native Americans, travel and missionary accounts, death and dying, poverty, temperance, immigrants and advice.

- **Mystic Seaport Museum** for "Maritime Westward Expansion." Amount of award: $57,218. Mystic Seaport Museum's digital project is a selection of 7,500 items from its archival collections. These items include materials dating from the mid- to late 19th century, including logbooks, diaries, letters, business papers and other manuscript items, images, imprints and ephemera, and maps and charts. The unique maritime perspective of these materials offers a rich look at the events, culture, beliefs and personal experiences associated with the settlement of California, Alaska, Hawaii,




**A "sailing card" from the collections of the Mystic Seaport Museum**

Texas and the Pacific Northwest. The materials chosen to be digitized relate to major themes in the history of westward expansion, including the California Gold Rush, the decline of native American cultures and populations, the politics and economics of "manifest destiny," the roles of women and the immigrant experience.

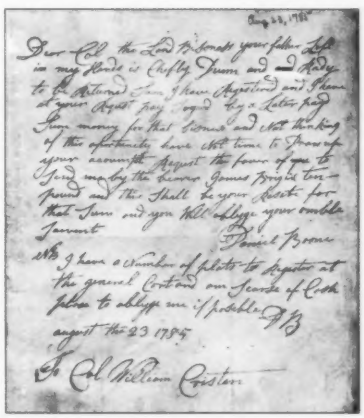


**"Chinese butcher and grocery shop, Chinatown, San Francisco," from the University of California, Berkeley, collection; First African Baptist Church, Savannah, Ga., from the University of North Carolina collection**

• **The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley** (lead institution), and the **California Historical Society**, for "Chinese in California, 1850-1920." Amount of award: $150,000. This collection of 12,500 items documents the 19th and early 20th century Chinese immigration to California and the West and reflects the social life, culture and commerce of these immigrants. The materials include photographs, original art, cartoons and other illustrations; letters, diaries, business records and legal documents; pamphlets, broadsides, speeches, sheet music and other printed matter.

• **University of Chicago Library** (lead institution) and the **Filson Club Historical Society** of Louisville, Ky., for "The First American West: The Ohio River Valley, 1750-1820." Amount of award: $145,596. This collection assembles 745 items from the rare books, pamphlets, newspapers, maps, prints and manuscripts collected by Reuben T. Durrett and the Filson Club Historical Society of Louisville, which he founded in 1884 and named after John Filson, author of *The Discovery, Settlement and Present State of Kentucke* (1784), a promotional tract recognized as the first history of the state. These materials present a rich picture of the Ohio River Valley from the dawn of its Euro-American settlement to the passing of the frontier beyond the Mississippi River.

• **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**, for "The Church in the Southern Black Community: Beginnings to 1920. Amount of award: $74,513. This collection of 19,000 pages from approximately 100 works (including slave narratives, autobiographies of African Americans, spirituals, sermons, church reports, religious periodicals and denominational histories) traces how Southern African Americans experienced and transformed Protestant Christianity into the central institution of community life. The materials are taken primarily from published works and observations by African American authors on ways the black community of the South adapted evangelical Christianity and made it a metaphor for freedom, community and personal survival. Later works written by African American church and lay men and women tell the post-emancipation story of the growth of churches and their role in the face of disenfranchisement, segregation and bigotry.



**Letter from Daniel Boone to William Cristen, 1785, from the University of Chicago collection**

Forty-eight applicants representing 70 institutions submitted proposals to compete for the awards (some applications were submitted by institutional consortiums). In formulating the competition guidelines and administering the evaluation process, the Library turned to the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Council on Library and Information Resources for expert guidance. Led by George Farr, director of the Division of Preservation and Access of the National Endowment for the Humanities, and Deanna Marcum, president of the Council on Library and Information Resources, three successive panels evaluated applications for historical significance, technical viability and the relevance of collections to current and planned American Memory collections.

The primary criterion for evaluation of an application was the significance of the collection for historical understanding and its utility to students and the general public. Once evaluators had assessed the significance and utility of the proposal, they assessed the technical and administrative viability of the project. For the 1998-99 competition cycle, applications were accepted for collections of textual and graphic materials that illuminate American history and culture beginning with the contact period in 1492

*continued on page 100*

# New On-Line Materials Debut

## *Printed Ephemera, South Texas, Hispano Culture Featured*

The National Digital Library (NDL) Program has recently added new multimedia materials from the incomparable collections of the Library of Congress to its American Memory Web site (**www.loc.gov**).

More than 40 electronic collections are now available in a public-private partnership that augments the $15 million in public funding dedicated to the NDL Program. The goal of the NDL Program is to have 5 million items from the Library and other repositories on-line by 2000, the Bicentennial of the Library of Congress (**www.loc.gov/bicentennial**).

The new materials are:

### An American Time Capsule: Three Centuries of Broadsides and Other Printed Ephemera

The Library's Printed Ephemera Collection is a rich repository of Americana. It comprises 28,000 primary source items dating from the 17th century to the present and encompasses key events and eras in American history. This preview of the digitized Printed Ephemera Collection presents 50 items that capture the experience of the American Revolution, slavery, the Western land rush, the Civil War, women's suffrage and the Industrial Revolution from the viewpoint of those who lived through those events.

A full release of this collection is planned for later this year.

### The South Texas Border 1900-1920: Photographs from the Robert Runyon Collection

This collection is a unique visual resource documenting the Lower Rio Grande Valley during the early 1900s. Runyon's photographs document the history and development of South Texas and the border, including the Mexican Revolution, the U.S. military presence at Fort Brown and along the border prior to and during World War I, and the growth and development of the Rio Grande Valley.

### Hispano Music and Culture of the Northern Rio Grande: The Juan B. Rael Collection

This is an on-line presentation of a multiformat ethnographic field collection documenting religious and secular music of Spanish-speaking residents of rural Northern New Mexico and Southern Colorado. In 1940, Juan Bautista Rael of Stanford University, a native of Arroyo Hondo, N.M., used disc recording equipment supplied by the Archive of American Folk Song (now the Archive of Folk Culture, American Folklife Center) to document *alabados* (hymns), folk drama, wedding songs and dance tunes. The collection also includes manuscript materials and publications by Rael that provide insight into the rich musical heritage and cultural traditions of this region.

The National Digital Library Program, which receives 75 percent of its funding from private sources, celebrated exceeding its fund-raising goal during an evening reception on April 13 (see story on page 92). ◆

**Awards**
*continued from page 99*

and continuing through the Colonial and nation-building eras to 1920. The competition was especially interested in proposals that illuminate the exploration and settlement of the American West. The competition was also interested in science and technology, and church and society.

Additional information on the LC/Ameritech National Digital Library Competition is available at this Web site: **memory.loc.gov/ammem/award.**

Several previous award winners have already completed their digitization projects. These collections are: "American Landscape and Architectural Design, 1850-1920," from Harvard University's Frances Loeb Library, Graduate School of Design; "The Northern Great Plains, 1880-1920," from North Dakota State University's Institute for Regional Studies; "The South Texas Border, 1900-1920," from the University of Texas at Austin's Center for American History. ◆

## *Interpretive Programs Office, Manuscript Division Win Awards*

The Society for History in the Federal Government granted two prizes to the Library of Congress at its annual awards luncheon on March 19.

The first, given jointly to the Interpretive Programs Office and to the Manuscript Division, was the John Wesley Powell Prize (for historical exhibition) for "Religion and the Founding of the American Republic," and the accompanying catalog of the same title prepared by James H. Hutson, chief of the Manuscript Division. The exhibition was on view at the Library from June 4 through Aug. 22, 1998.

The second, awarded to Paul H. Smith and Ronald M. Gephart, was the Thomas Jefferson Prize (for documentary editing) for volume 25 of *Letters of Delegates to Congress, 1774-1789*, the final textual volume in that series. Mr. Smith and Mr. Gephart, both Manuscript historians in the Manuscript Division, edited the volume.

The projects were "judged on the basis of research, style and thoroughness of presentation to be outstanding contributions to research in the history of the federal government for 1998." They were selected from among dozens of submissions from federal agencies thoughout the United States. Exhibition Coordinator Giulia Adelfio of the Interpretive Programs Office and Mr. Hutson accepted the Powell Prize on the Library's behalf; Mr. Smith and Mr. Gephart accepted the Jefferson Prize. Assistant Chief David Wigdor represented the Manuscript Division at the awards ceremony, and Editor Evelyn Sinclair represented the Publishing Office. ◆

# American Film Treasures

## *Library to Restore 'The Emperor Jones'*

The Library will receive support to join Treasures of American Film Archives, a project organized by the National Film Preservation Foundation in celebration of the year 2000. Through a $200,000 grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts, the Library and four other federal archives will now join this landmark initiative to preserve rare American films.

Dr. Billington welcomed the grant: "The American people have entrusted our nation's film heritage to the Library of Congress and other archives, and we take our stewardship seriously. Only by working together with this kind of support can we save this vital historical record."

Involving 17 archives throughout the United States, Treasures of American Film Archives marks the largest collaborative preservation and access initiative to be undertaken by the American archival community. It will preserve films intimately documenting American life and culture, in almost every category of filmmaking from cinema's first 100 years.

Preserving this important art form requires expensive, continuing care to prevent loss by destruction. This ambitious project will preserve and showcase a wide range of American "orphan films," or works not protected by commercial interests, including newsreels, silent-era films, documentaries, home movies, avant-garde works and independent productions.

For its part of the initiative, the Library will save and restore many rare, important American films, including "The Emperor Jones," the renowned 1933 film starring Paul Robeson, along with films from two collections vital to American history and culture: the Thomas Edison and Margaret Mead collections.

Emperor Jones is perhaps Robeson's most famous film role. Based on the play by Eugene O'Neill, the film traces the rise of a railroad porter who rises to Caribbean king through murder, bravado and sheer energy. The Library will restore "The Emperor Jones" from an original 35mm nitrate negative in its Motion Picture Conservation Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Paul Robeson as The Emperor Jones, 1933

The Edison Laboratory Collection documents the experiments and operations of the famed inventor's laboratory in West Orange, N.J., from the turn of the century through the mid-1920s.

Included is original 35mm nitrate footage of Edison's efforts to assist the War Department during World War I, educational films on the development of the electric light, as well as Edison celebrating his 75th birthday, talking on the radio and meeting young protégées.

Pioneering anthropologist Margaret Mead used film extensively as part of her research. The Library holds the full record of her ethnographic work — field notes, manuscripts, photographs, and films — and will now preserve the footage she and husband Gregory Bateson shot in Bali from 1936 to 1939.

The Pew Charitable Trusts support nonprofit activities in the areas of culture, education, the environment, health and human services, public policy and religion. Based in Philadelphia, the Trusts make strategic investments to help organizations and citizens develop practical solutions to difficult problems. In 1998, with approximately $4.734 billion in assets, the Trusts granted more than $213 million to 298 nonprofit organizations.

The National Film Preservation Foundation (NFPF), organizer of the Treasures of American Film Archives, is an independent nonprofit organization created by the U.S. Congress to save America's film heritage. The NFPF supports film preservation activities nationwide that ensure the physical survival of film for future generations and improve access to film for study, education and exhibition. Information on the foundation can be found at its Web site: www.filmpreservation.org.

The Library of Congress's Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division provides public access to the most comprehensive collection of American and foreign-produced film and television in the world. Through the American Television and Radio Archive Act of 1976 and the National Film Preservation Act of 1988, the Library has a congressional mandate to preserve the cultural record of American film and broadcast history, as well as lead the development of the country's moving-image preservation policies.

The backbone of the collection is the more than 500,000 motion pictures and television programs deposited for copyright. Special holdings include the Paper Print Collection of 3,000 pre-1915 films registered for copyright as rolls of still photographs, 20,000 kinescopes of NBC programming from the 1940s through the early '70s, the PBS Collection of 24,000 tapes and films, as well as separate collections of studio films from Warner Bros., Columbia, RKO and Paramount.

The Library also has two moving-image preservation laboratories: the Magnetic Recording Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and the Motion Picture Conservation Center (MPCC) in Dayton, Ohio. Since 1970 the MPCC has preserved more than 15,000 feature films, television programs and short subjects, making the Library the largest publicly funded motion picture preservation organization in the United States.

The Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division supports a public exhibition program through its Mary Pickford Theater and provides free access to qualified researchers in the Film and Television Reading Room. Its Web site is: **www.loc.gov/rr/mopic**. ◆

# New Director for Folklife Center

## *Bulger Brings Regional Folk Experience*

Margaret Anne "Peggy" Bulger, senior program officer with the Southern Arts Federation in Atlanta, has been appointed the director of the American Folklife Center at the Library.

Ms. Bulger succeeds Alan Jabbour. Ms. Bulger will assume her duties on July 6. However, she participated as director-designate during a March meeting of the American Folklife Center Board of Trustees at the Library.

She began her service at the Southern Arts Federation in 1989 as the regional folk arts program coordinator, with responsibilities for developing the folk arts program in nine Southern states. Through progressively responsible positions at the federation, Ms. Bulger gained a range of experience in folklife, public programming, fund-raising, management and communications.

Ms. Bulger was folk arts coordinator and state folklorist for the state of Florida, serving in the Bureau of Florida Folklife Programs from 1976 to 1989. In this position, she established the Florida Folklife Archives. Previously, Ms. Bulger coordinated the Traditional Folklife Project at the Appalachian Museum affiliated with Berea College (Kentucky) from 1975 to 1976.

Said Associate Librarian for Library Services Winston Tabb in announcing Ms. Bulger's appointment: "This broad range of experience in folklife and public folklife administration, covering a period exceeding two decades, uniquely suits Dr. Bulger for the role of director of the American Folklife Center."

Said Ms. Bulger: "I am honored and excited to be part of the nation's Library, and the American Folklife Center." She noted the importance of the Archive of American Folk Song as "an invaluable resource for scholars and collectors of traditional music and song" and praised the work of the American Folklife Center since its founding in 1976 to complement and expand upon that collection and to preserve and present American folk culture and heritage.

**Margaret Anne "Peggy" Bulger**

"I hope to build upon the good work of the past 23 years as we all move into the next millennium," Ms. Bulger said. "With the center's permanent authorization last year, all Americans can rejoice that we are now poised to move forward with essential programs that will ensure the accessibility and growth of the collections for generations to come.

"As a folklorist who has utilized the impressive resources of the American Folklife Center, I look forward to working with the center's dedicated staff and the advanced technology of the Library to make the American Folklife Center and its collections available to all," she continued. "The National Digital Library project, as well as the grassroots programs that have been developed to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Library, will be instrumental in this effort to reach all communities with our national collections."

Ms. Bulger added: "The United States is a nation blessed with a diversity of culture and human creativity. There is a growing awareness concerning the essential role played by folk heritage, folk culture and folk arts in our nation. A healthy America demands a respect for, and pride in, the variety of cultures and traditions that comprise our national profile. The American Folklife Center is a center for the people, ensuring that these cultural resources are preserved and celebrated throughout the years to come."

In addition to the professional positions she has held, Ms. Bulger has been active in the larger American folklife community. "In particular, she has been active in the single most important society relating to her area of expertise — the American Folklore Society — of which she is currently president elect," Mr. Tabb said.

Ms. Bulger has written or edited a number of professional works, including *South Florida Folklife* (University of Mississippi Press, 1994) and *Musical Roots of the South* (Southern Arts Federation, 1992). In 1992, she won the Wayland D. Hand Prize for best article published in *The Folklore Historian*.

She was awarded the M.A. degree in folk studies from Western Kentucky University in 1975. While doing her graduate work, she served as an assistant in the university's folklife archives, for which she organized the Wilgus collection of folk songs and ballads and helped acquire the Carter family recording archive. In 1992, she received a Ph.D., with honors, in folklore and folklife from the University of Pennsylvania. ◆

**Gifts**
*continued from page 91*

antiquarian book dealers to locate titles and editions matching those of the 897 volumes still missing from the Jefferson Library. New acquisitions, together with books and manuscripts of Jefferson's already on hand at the Library, will be part of a major Jefferson exhibition in 2000, the Librarian said.

Using various catalogs, including one created by Jefferson himself, and principally a thorough five-volume work by E. Millicent Sowerby, curators of the Jefferson materials have created "A List of Desiderata" to aid in the search for the same titles and editions for replacements.

Said Rare Book and Special Collections Chief Mark Dimunation, "The task is to build in one year what took him a lifetime to build. ... Some items have not been seen at auction in 100 years." ◆

*Ms. Fineberg is editor of* The Gazette, *the Library's staff newspaper.*

# To Have and To Hold

## *Annual Preservation Workshop Draws Crowds*

The problems of keeping, organizing and storing old family photographs, important papers or special books that are fading, yellowing and growing ever more fragile are common to individuals as well as to libraries and museums around the world.

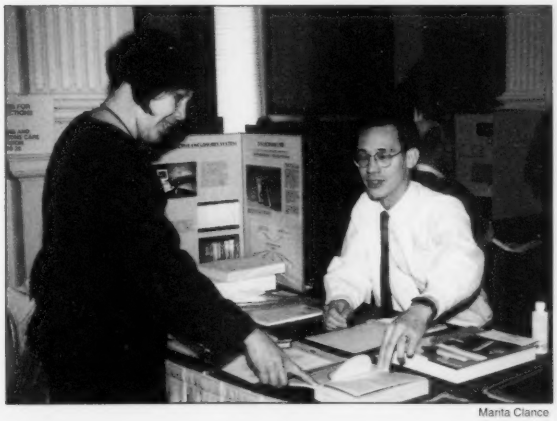
On April 13, the Library of Congress held its fourth annual free workshop to help the public learn more about handling, cleaning, preserving and storing these valuable materials. The first Preservation Awareness Workshop, held in 1996, proved so successful, with more than 600 people in attendance, that the Library's Preservation Directorate decided to make the workshop an annual event.

In addition to the Library's professional conservation and curatorial staff, representatives of nonprofit professional associations in the preservation field as well as companies that manufacture and distribute conservation products were there to answer questions and offer other information on preservation products and issues.

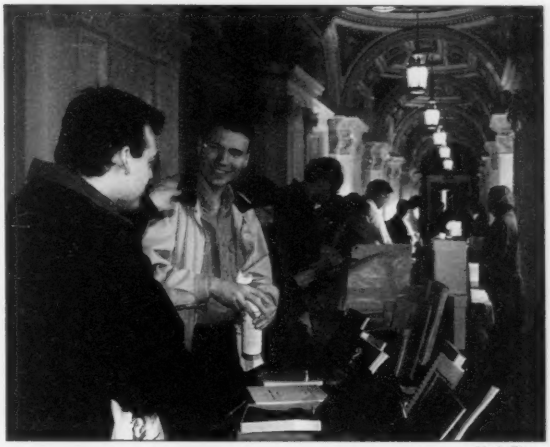
For the second year, Allan J. Stypeck, host of the popular National Public Radio show "The Book Guys," was on hand to appraise (free of charge) old books, prints, photographs, manuscripts and sound recordings.

In addition, professional conservators, members of the American Institute for Conservation, were available to assess the condition of personal books, documents and photographs and to offer specific conservation treatment options and storage advice. Co-sponsored by the Library's Center for the Book and the Preservation Directorate, the workshop was part of the Library's celebration of National Library Week.

Throughout the day, visitors saw demonstrations of gold tooling, paper mending, book sewing, materials testing and matting and hinging of works of art on paper. Library staff at table displays answered questions as well as provided printed information on the handling, cleaning and storage of books, papers and documents, fine prints, photographs, CDs, sound recordings and motion picture film. Slide presentations focused on some of the factors that place personal collections at risk. ◆



Marita Clance



Marita Clance

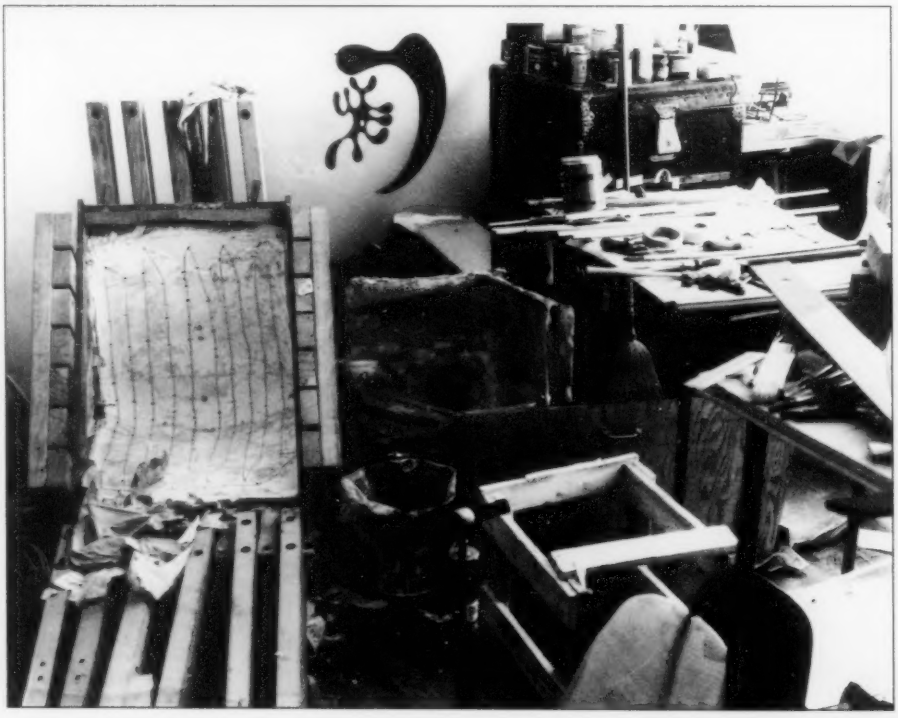
**Students from Gallaudet University in front of a display booth in the vendor area of the workshop, which was held in the Thomas Jefferson Building this year**

Marita Clance

Marita Clance

**Senior Book Conservator Lynn Kidder sews the pages of a book in a book sewing frame; Glen Ruzicka offers a conservation assessment; Wans Wang of the collections care book repair unit (left) discusses book care with a workshop attendee.**

Charles and Ray Eames posing for a Christmas card with a sculpture they carved from a plywood splint, 1944; "Kazam!" machine in the Eameses' Los Angeles apartment, 1941



# 'Kazam!'

## *Major Exhibition of Work of American Designers Charles and Ray Eames Opens*

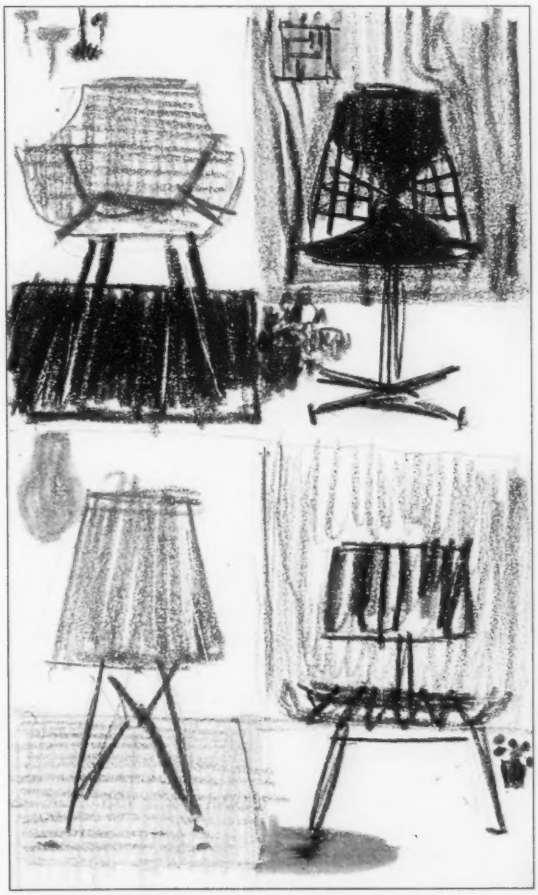
BY CRAIG D'OOGE

A major exhibition of the work of American designers Charles and Ray Eames opens at the Library of Congress on May 20 with a "Kazam!"

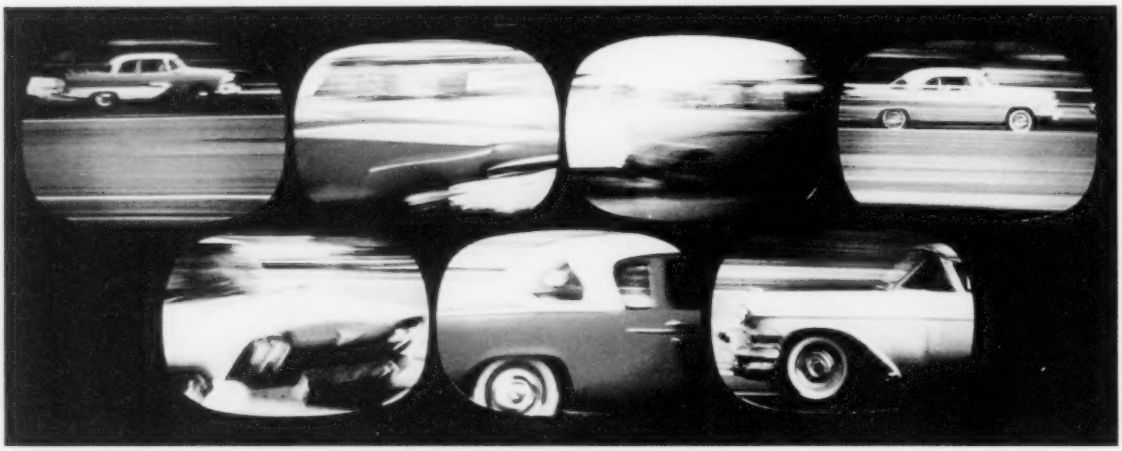
That's the name the husband-and-wife design team gave to an apparatus they built out of scrap wood and a bicycle pump to mold plywood into chairs. The "Kazam!" machine will sit outside the entrance to the exhibition "The Work of Charles and Ray Eames: A Legacy of Invention" in the Library's Great Hall, a fitting symbol for the spirit of playful innovation that infused the Eameses' life and work.

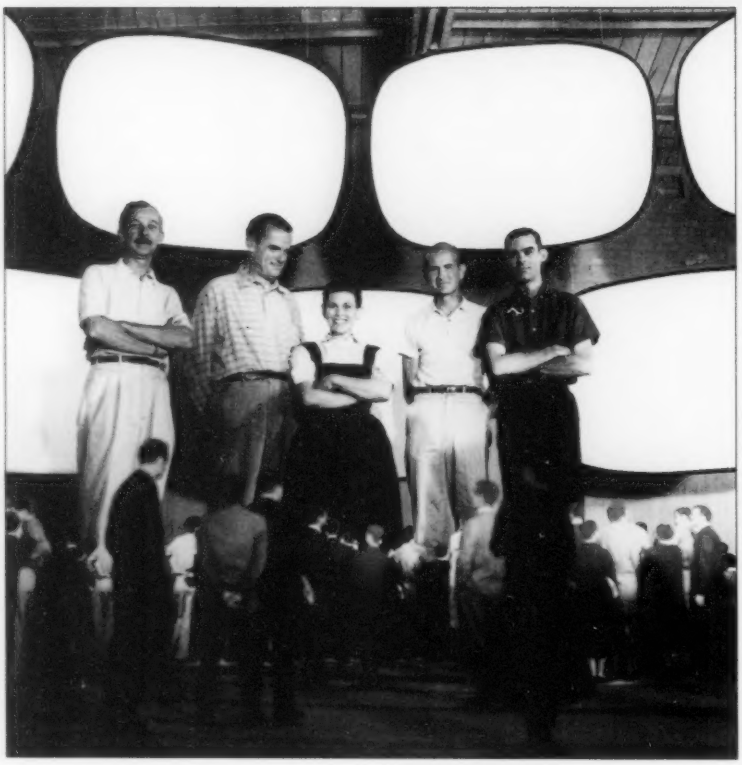
Charles (1907-1978) and Ray (1912-1988) Eames had a profound influence on design in the latter half of the 20th century, both in the United States and throughout the world. Taking as their motto "the most of the best to the greatest number of people for the least," they are perhaps best known for the form-fitting chairs that were produced in the 1940s and 1950s using the mass production techniques they invented. But they also designed and created buildings, toys, films, multimedia presentations, exhibits and books, including more than 50 projects for their major client, IBM, such as the IBM Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair.

The Eameses' influence on American style and taste is so profound as to be almost indiscernible. But every time we pick up a Pottery Barn catalog, snap together a shelf from Ikea, or spread out a rug from Pier 1, Charles and Ray Eames are not far away. In part, this is because of their design philosophy, which was



**Color sketch for postcard promoting Eames chairs; finished version of postcard**





**Assembled composite from "Glimpses of the U.S.A.," a seven-screen slide show created by the Eames Office for the American National Exhibition in Moscow, 1959; staff members John Whitney, Charles and Ray Eames, Parke Meek and John Neuhart in model of the dome of the American National Exhibition**

founded on finding lasting solutions to fundamental needs, but also because they worked closely with large corporate and government entities to expose their design solutions to as many people as possible. The Library's exhibition, organized in partnership with the Vitra Design Museum, in Weil am Rhein, Germany, is the first posthumous retrospective of their work. The Library acquired the contents of the Eames Office in Los Angeles in 1988, shortly after Ray died.

More than 500 items have been selected for the exhibition. The materials come primarily from three sources: photographs, drawings and documents from the Library's collection of more than 1 million items donated by Ray; furniture from the collections of the Vitra Design Museum and many personal items on temporary loan from Lucia Eames, daughter of Charles, and from the Eames Office, which continues to function today under the direction of their grandson, Eames Demetrios.

The design of the exhibition by Hodgetts + Fung Design Associates can only be described as "Eamesian": light, modular panels with exposed structural elements, accented with bright blocks of color and a profusion of objects, images and audiovisual displays that playfully undercut conventional notions of scale, harmony and linear exposition. After all, the Eameses were the people who created one of the first multiscreen films: "Glimpses of the U.S.A.," a seven-screen extravaganza commissioned by the U.S. Information Agency in 1959 for an exhibition in Moscow. The innovative work practically buried Russian audiences under some 2,200 images of a day in the life of the United States, both in slide and film. Russians lined up for blocks to get in and reportedly left in tears after seeing the sheer scope of

Lounge chair and ottoman, 1956

Charles (in lift), Ray and staff outside their office filming the picnic scene for the first version of "Powers of Ten," 1968.

what capitalism provided. For the Library's exhibition, "Glimpses" has been adapted to an array of seven television monitors.

The exhibition is organized into five sections — "Furniture," "Space," "Beauty," "Culture" and "Science," with a sixth section devoted to the personal stories of Charles and Ray Eames — and it integrates artifacts, photographs, films and video interviews in a comprehensive examination of the design team's intellectual foundations and creative evolution.

Charles and Ray Eames witnessed firsthand many of the momentous events of the 20th century, such as the Depression and World War II. Their lives and work encompassed some of the country's defining social movements: the emerging importance of America's West Coast, the rise of corporate and industrial America and the global expansion of American culture. Providing the basic human needs of shelter, comfort and knowledge was at the core of the Eameses' philosophy of design. As noted by Donald Albrecht, the exhibition's director and catalog editor, the Eameses were partners with the federal government and the country's top businesses in a rare era when they all shared the same objectives in leading the charge to modernize postwar America.

To understand the processes that led to the Eameses' achievements, the exhibition focuses on the challenges that were posed to them by clients such as Herman Miller Inc., IBM, Westinghouse, Boeing and Polaroid, as well as problems they posed to themselves, such as how to produce affordable, high-quality furniture; how to build economical, well-designed space for living and working; how to help people see beauty in the everyday; how to help Americans and other cultures understand each other; and how to make fundamental scientific principles accessible to the public.

The section of the exhibition devoted to "Furniture" features prototypes, experiments and promotional graphics, as well as examples of the four types of chairs that the Eameses designed for Herman Miller: molded plywood, fiberglass-reinforced plastic, bent and welded-wire mesh and cast aluminum. This section also includes advertisements, comics and other ephemera that trace the visual history of the chairs as they echoed through popular culture, from Dick Tracy to ads for detergent. A 6-foot-high wooden drum sits in the middle of the exhibition. It was used in the landmark exhibit "New Furniture Designed by Charles Eames" at the Museum of Modern Art in 1946 to dramatize the durability of one of the Eameses' plywood chairs. It is an extremely simple, but powerful demonstration: as the drum rotates, the chair within tumbles endlessly.

The "Space" section examines the Eameses' contribution to America's postwar need for mass-produced housing, including their own steel-and-glass home in Los Angeles and the office they created in a converted garage. The steel frame house was assembled on the site in 1949 out of industrial components, in answer to a challenge for affordable "case study" housing ideas posed by a magazine.

A 7-foot-long model of the house, a filmed walk-through and decorative objects collected by the Eameses during their world travels are featured in the exhibition.

The Eameses' ability to recognize beauty in the everyday stands out in the section titled "Beauty." Here the Eameses' films are shown, as well as Ray's sculptures. The film "Blacktop" will be projected on the floor: nothing more than soapsuds on asphalt, but Charles added the music of Bach, creating a poetic effect.

Ray also was a master at transforming the ordinary, as witnessed by the elegant sculptures she fashioned that were inspired by the undulating curves of a leg splint that the couple manufactured for the Navy. A large light table is strewn with hundreds of slides of abstract images, only a small sample of the thousands the Eameses took to provide themselves with visual stimulation. Visitors are invited to pull out drawers that contain samples of Ray's "collections": ornaments, old paint tubes, dolls, fabric samples, whatever caught her fancy and provided inspiration.

The "Culture" section features "Glimpses of the U.S.A." as well as images and objects collected during their travels, especially in India and Mexico. The Eames eye picked out objects they encountered that exemplified fundamental principles of design, such as the traditional Indian water jug, the *lota*, in which they recognized the culmination of a set of complex factors that form all good design solutions.

"Science" focuses on the films on various subjects that they produced. The films are screened within a small theater constructed in the Northwest Pavilion of the Jefferson Building and furnished with the chairs they designed for Washington Dulles Airport, among other places. The production panels that were laboriously created by hand for their famous film "Powers of Ten" encircle the theater, with the film itself projected on a screen overhead. Research notes, correspondence, animation cells and other production materials document the extensive creative process that lies behind this simple, basic demonstration of the concept of scale.

**Ray and Charles Eames working on a model for the exhibition *Mathematica*, 1960**

In addition to the films, the exhibition also will feature video oral histories with friends, family and colleagues, all of whom informed or benefited from their vision. The media components are produced by Eames Demetrios, Charles's grandson, who currently heads the Eames Office.

Funding for the exhibition was provided by IBM, Herman Miller Inc. and Vitra AG. Additional support was provided by CCI Inc. and the Eames Office, which also contributed ideas, expertise and creativity. The Library's installation was made possible by additional support from Herman Miller Inc.

The accompanying catalog, published in English by Harry N. Abrams, N.Y., and in German by Ernst & Sohn, Berlin, has won four awards, including one from the Society of Architectural Historians. Essays were contributed by Donald Albrecht, Beatriz Colomina, Joseph Giovannini, Alan Lightman, Helene Lipstadt and Philip and Phylis Morrison. Responsibility for concept development of the exhibition was shared by Donald Albrecht and Hodgetts + Fung Design Associates, in collaboration with the organizing institutions. For the Library Congress, the exhibition was developed by the Interpretive Programs Office, headed by Irene Chambers, with Giulia Adelfio as exhibit coordinator. After the exhibition opens, an electronic version will be available on the Library's Web site at **www.loc.gov**. The exhibit closes on Sept. 4, after which it will travel to the Cooper-Hewitt Design Museum in New York (Oct. 12, 1999 – Jan. 9, 2000), the St. Louis Art Museum (Feb. 9 – May 14, 2000) and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (June 25 – Sept. 11, 2000). It has already been to Germany, Denmark and London. ◆

*Mr. D'Ooge is media director in the Public Affairs Office.*

# Exhibiting 'Eames'

## *Library Takes Special Care to Safeguard Collections*

BY MARK ROOSA

Mounting an exhibition, such as "The Work of Charles and Ray Eames," requires much more than selecting items and placing them on display.

In addition to the major work performed by the Library's Interpretive Programs Office, the Conservation Division also plays an important role in ensuring that the materials — many of which are rare and fragile — are not harmed by their exposure.

The Library — like all institutions that offer exhibitions — must maintain a balance between providing public access to its vast collections through exhibitions while also taking impeccable care of the items exhibited.

The Eames exhibition that opens at the Library on May 20 (one of four domestic and three European venues; a decision on a Far East tour is pending) will offer objects that will not be seen at its other venues, such as an assortment of beautifully crafted three-dimensional models created for the IBM Pavilion at the 1964 New York World's Fair. "I marveled at the intricacy of their construction," said Exhibition Conservator Rikki Condon.

Three years before the exhibition was scheduled to open, the Conservation Division began a series of preliminary reviews to create a final list of items for inclusion. Ms. Condon examined hundreds of items, set conservation guidelines such as light-exposure limits and exhibition-housing requirements and determined conservation treatment needs.

Marita Clance

**Exhibits Conservator Rikki Condon prepares an Eames model for the upcoming exhibition; dining chair and folding wall screen (below), 1946**

Because the exhibition includes architectural drawings, photographs, collages, watercolor sketches, pastels, ink manuscripts and multimedia 3-D models — a total of more than 500 items — Ms. Condon had to be very strict with the time allotted for conservation treatments. Many items were so light-sensitive that between two and four alternative items had to be chosen to rotate over the life of the exhibition. These reviews spanned several months and led to a final list with a numbering system describing each item, how long it could remain on display, its size and media.

The exhibition material was photographed and brought to the conservation laboratory for minor treatments such as flattening, dry-cleaning with an eraser and mending. Condition reports were created for each item, detailing its unique physical features and exhibition requirements. Most art-on-paper objects were encapsulated in polyester or housed in mats and frames to protect them from the rigors of exhibition travel and installation.

For virtually all exhibitions in-house or elsewhere, the Library provides custom-fitted exhibition supports for all items. In some cases, exhibition cases must be constructed to the Library's strict conservation specifications. Once the exhibition opens, Library staff will monitor the objects on display and keep a careful eye on the temperature and relative humidity of the exhibition space.

Safeguarding the Library's treasures does not stop in the conservation lab. On many occasions, Ms. Condon has been required to accompany objects to their destination. For the recent traveling exhibition "From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress," Ms. Condon's adventure included riding along with 165 objects for 24 hours in a 48-foot, climate-controlled big rig to Dallas, where the exhibition opened. The expert packing and uncrating by fine arts handling companies also play a crucial role in the success of a traveling exhibition.

The work of Charles and Ray Eames will see Ms. Condon as needed in other venues to ensure that the objects are in the same condition as when they left the Library. ◆

*Mr. Roosa is chief of the Conservation Division. He thanks Ms. Condon for assistance in preparing this article.*

# Song of Himself

## *Walt Whitman Biographer Speaks at Library*

By YVONNE FRENCH

It was almost as if Walt Whitman himself were there when his most recent biographer gave a talk in the Mumford Room for a "Books & Beyond" lecture March 22.

Not only did Jerome Loving, author of *Walt Whitman: Song of Himself* (University of California Press, 1999), show a number of slides of Whitman and his family and play a recording of the poem "America" (believed to be the only extant recording of the poet's actual voice), but on display were a larger-than-life white plaster bust of Whitman, a lock of his gray hair cut on the day of his death, a bronze cast of his hand, his fountain pen, spectacles and Calamus-root cane, his hastily hand-drawn design for his burial vault and an 1892 *Frank Leslie's Weekly* showing various scenes from his funeral.

The exhibition, mounted by American Literature Manuscript Historian Alice Birney of the Manuscript Division, was selected from items in the Charles Feinberg/Walt Whitman Collection. Notably, the exhibition also included the famous July 21, 1855, letter in which Ralph Waldo Emerson greets the upstart Whitman at the "beginning of a great career" and an 1870 broadside copy of the letter reprinted by Whitman. Mr. Loving described how Whitman rearranged the original paragraph to emphasize the complimentary phrase.

Yvonne French

**Alice Birney, American literature manuscript historian in the Library's Manuscript Division, and Walt Whitman biographer Jerome Loving discuss Whitman's work at an exhibition of his personal effects shortly before Mr. Loving took the podium in a Books & Beyond lecture March 22.**

**Walt Whitman, age 37, Fulton St., Brooklyn, N.Y., steel engraving by Samuel Hollyer from a lost daguerreotype by Gabriel Harrison.**

Said John Y. Cole, director of the Center for the Book, which sponsors the "Books & Beyond" lecture series: "Professor Loving relied on the Library's holdings and on help from Alice Birney in the research for his book. ... Alice and Jerry have worked on and off on various Whitman projects for almost nine years." Mr. Cole also noted that Mr. Loving had been interviewed earlier in the day on National Public Radio and that his talk was filmed for telecast on C-SPAN2's "BookTV." It was to air on May 2.

The biography begins before the Civil War as "Whitman was making his way through that now-famous 'long foreground' [also mentioned in the letter] that Emerson recognized when he first read Whitman's poetry in 1855," said Mr. Loving. Eventually, though not during his lifetime, Whitman's "free versification and daringly fresh content would revolutionize American poetry," Ms. Birney said.

Mr. Loving explained: "His poetic career began almost by accident, in the early composition of *Leaves of Grass*. A former printer, he set up part of the first 1855 edition himself and first discovered the transformative power of the printed page. The printer's term for such experimental writing was 'grass,' or the job to be put up during idle times."

He discussed the influence of the Civil War on the book, and said: "Its mettle 'tested' by the Civil War, *Leaves of Grass* reshaped the canon of American literature and probably remains today its central document. ... [It] pretty well put America on the

world literary map, certainly in terms of the 20th century appreciation of our national literature.

"In the first *Leaves of Grass* he introduced two ingredients thus far unknown to American poetry, at least as directly and significantly as they appeared in Whitman: sex and jobs. The first was inspired by Emerson and the transcendentalists, who said that all nature was an emblem of spirit, or God. If so, why not celebrate sex, which was a part of nature? The second was the American pastime for work. The work of the average: the lawyer, the laborer, the seamstress, the mother, the brother, the sister, even the Irish prostitute. Whitman celebrates what he calls 'the Divine Average' — probably the most wonderful oxymoron democracy ever produced. ... The poet reasoned that if — according to transcendentalist doctrine — everyone was divine because nature was emblematic of God, then all were equal, politically equal, including women, whom Whitman treated equally with men.

"This idea of equality and self-divinity also meant that one could celebrate himself or herself. And so the first poem of the first edition of *Leaves of Grass* began: 'I celebrate myself [and sing myself] / And what I assume you shall assume, / For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.'"

Mr. Loving had first contemplated writing a book about Whitman's biographers, but feared "we were getting away from the facts. I felt we needed a new critical and freshly documented life of the poet after almost 40 years — something representing the scholarship and discoveries occurring since the publication by my mentor, the late Gay Wilson Allen, of *The Solitary Singer* in 1955. Hence, Mr. Loving's book is promoted as "the first full-length critical biography of Walt Whitman in more than 40 years."

Mr. Loving also said he wanted to refocus attention on what makes Whitman great: his poetry. "After the war ... [and] after he had been dismissed from his government job in Washington for being the author of a 'dirty book,' Whitman set aside the rest of his life to seek the acceptance of *Leaves of Grass* by the American people. As he wrote in the preface to his first edition: 'The proof of a poet is that his country absorbs him as affectionately as he has absorbed it.'"

If the appreciative murmurings and attentive questions of the audience at the lecture were any indication, Mr. Whitman may rest assured that it has.

Mr. Loving has written many articles about Whitman, Whitman's friends and his biographers. He also is the author of four books: *Lost in the Customhouse: Authorship in the American Renaissance* (1993); *Emily Dickinson: The Poet on the Second Story* (1986); *Emerson, Whitman and the American Muse* (1982); and *Walt Whitman's Champion: William Douglas O'Connor.* He has edited, among other works, an edition of Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* that was published in 1990 by Oxford University Press. He is a professor of English at Texas A&M University. ◆

**Early 1880s photograph, by the Phillips and Taylor photographic studio in Philadelphia, of Walt Whitman holding what is probably a butterfly prop, though the poet at times claimed it was a live creature. A painted cardboard butterfly with wire finger mount is part of the Library's Harned/Whitman Collection.**

*Ms. French is a public affairs specialist in the Public Affairs Office.*

**Kluge**
*continued from page 93*

Joining him was tenor Mark McVey, whose shows have included *Les Miserables, Carousel, My Fair Lady, South Pacific* and *Show Boat.*

During its semiannual business meetings, the Madison Council focused on projects related to the Library's Bicentennial in 2000. Meeting highlights included a luncheon talk by former Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger.

The council's Acquisitions Committee, chaired by Edwin L. Cox of the Edwin L. Cox Co., and philanthropist Caroline Ahmanson, met to consider rare and important materials suggested by Library curators for acquisition for the Library. The Madison Council is heading this Bicentennial Gifts to the Nation project to add historically significant items to Library archives and foster scholarship and curatorships (see story on page 91).

As a result of Acquisitions Committee recommendations to the full council and the council's fund-raising efforts, the Library has been able to acquire materials valued at $4.8 million during the past four years.

The Madison Council also heard about the Library's general collections from Steven J. Herman, chief of the Collections Management Division; Richard F. Sharp and Constance Carter of the Science, Technology and Business Division; and Georgia M. Higley and Lyle W. Minter of the Serial and Government Publications Division.

Council members learned more about the Library's collections from Samuel S. Brylawski of the Motion Picture, Broadcasting and Recorded Sound Division, who discussed the Bob Hope collection; Mark E. Horowitz of the Music division, who discussed the papers of ballerina Alexandra Danilova; Jennifer Cutting of the American Folklife Center, whose topic was blues legend Robert Johnson; and Ieda Siqueira Wiarda of the Hispanic Division, who discoursed on the Library's collection of 6,000 chapbooks — small books of verse and topical commentary — from Brazil. ◆

*Ms. Fineberg is editor of the Library's staff newspaper,* The Gazette.

# Pioneering Arab-American

## *Papers of Ameen Rihani Donated to Library*

By ALICE L. BIRNEY

The Albert Ferris Rihani family has donated to the Library of Congress facsimiles of the manuscripts of all of the English works of pioneer Arab-American author Ameen F. Rihani (1876-1940).

Rihani was the first American of Arab heritage to devote himself to writing literature, to publish a novel in English, and the first Arab author to write English essays, poetry, novels, short stories, art critiques and travel chronicles. He was the author of 29 volumes in English. His early writings in English mark the beginning of a body of literature that is Arab in its interest, culture and characteristics, English in language and American in spirit. He published in the United States during the first three decades of this century in many major magazines and newspapers.

This unique set of photocopied manuscripts will make the unpublished primary documents of this influential poet much more accessible to scholars. (The originals will remain in the family museum in Freike, Lebanon.) The collection recently was processed and is now available for research in the Manuscript Division Reading Room. A program marking the donation and the centennial of the founding of the modern kingdom of Saudi Arabia was held at the Library April 20 (see story on page 113).

The papers consist of some 1,250 items of correspondence (including incoming letters), biographical material, drafts of essays, historical and political analyses, literary criticism, novels, short stories, plays, poetry and travel literature reflecting Rihani's Arab-American heritage and the cultures of both the Middle East and the West.

The collection also includes many of his unpublished manuscripts: a social study describing the vanished Mayan culture, a verse tragedy, a novel about a World War I romance, essays, poetry written in 1921-1940 as well as literary and political letters.

Some of the essay subjects that illustrate the range of Rihani's interests include: the Ottoman Empire, World War I, British policy in Southwestern Arabia, the Pan-Arab movement, agnosticism, landscape painting in America, the Russian ballet and Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Rihani is recognized as the founder of Arab-American literature and the forerunner of ethnic American literature written by popular Middle Eastern writers. He was regarded as a mentor by Kahlil Gibran, a younger writer whom Rihani befriended in New York. Gibran was particularly influenced by Rihani's major novel, *Book of Khalid*, which came out in 1911. It established the basic characteristics of Arab-American literature in general and Lebanese-American literature in particular: the motifs of wisdom and prophecy that seek to reconcile matter and spirit, and reason and faith, and to unify the beliefs of East and West within a larger universal vision.

Rihani's books on the Arab world, written in both Arabic and English, represent an alternative perspective to the "Orientalist" movement by giving that world, for the first time, an objective and analytical description from an Arab point of view. His *Kings of Arabia* marks the beginning of the "counter-Orientalist" movement.

According to University of Pennsylvania professor of Arabic Roger Allen, Rihani and his fellow Arab immigrants were leaders in "the literary movement that was so crucial to the life and development of certain communities in the United States [especially Brooklyn, Cincinnati and Detroit] and also to the development of cultural and literary ties to the Middle East region.

"In view of not only the breadth and sophistication of his own learning but also the extreme shortage of studies on the heritage and 20th century development of Arabic literature," he continued, "these studies must be of the highest value to specialists in Arabic literature and to all those who are concerned with the history of immigrant communities in the United States."

Rihani was influenced by the American poet Walt Whitman and introduced free verse to Arabic poetry through his *Hymn of the Valleys*. His new style of poetry was published as early as 1905. It flourished in the Arab world and continued to lead modern Arabic poetry after his death and throughout the second half of the 20th century.

Ameen Rihani's upbringing and the nature of his intellect shaped him into a true bilingual and bicultural author. He was born Nov. 24, 1876, in Freike, Lebanon, where his father, Ferris, was a raw silk manufacturer. He was sent to the United States at age 12 with his uncle Salamon who opened a drygoods store. The father followed the next year. The boy was soon taken out of school to do the paperwork for the family business in a small cellar in lower Manhattan. During this period, he read widely, discovering Hugo, Shakespeare, Keats, Shelley and Whitman, among other classic authors of Western civilization.

In 1895 he decided to become an actor and toured with a Shakespearean theater troupe. Pining for a formal education, he was accepted at New York Law School in 1897. When a lung infection interrupted that course of study, he returned to Lebanon to recuperate. There he relearned his native Arabic and began teaching English. He also studied the Arab poets and their culture.

Rihani returned to New York in 1898 and began publishing in both languages at the turn of the century. In 1904 he returned to Freike for a five-year period during which he lectured and published essays, allegories, stories and plays in Arabic.

After returning again to New York, in 1916 he married Bertha Case, an American artist who was part of the Matisse, Picasso, Cezanne and Derain group who frequently worked and exhibited together in France. In 1922 Rihani traveled again to the Arabian peninsula, where he met, interviewed and befriended many rulers. He lectured widely, often carrying the banner of American democracy and Arab independence from Ottoman Turkey and Europe. He died at his birthplace in 1940 and was buried in the family cemetery following a funeral attended by

# Library Celebrates Gift of Rihani Papers and Saudi Centennial

By MARY-JANE DEEB

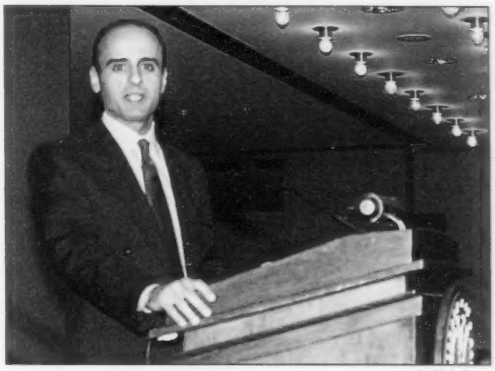
On April 20, the African and Middle Eastern Division and the Manuscript Division hosted a special event to celebrate the gift of the Ameen Rihani papers to the Library and the centennial of the founding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

More than 150 diplomats, Arab dignitaries, CEOs of U.S. companies, academics, U.S. military officials, journalists and others attended. Following the reception the guests listened to remarks from May Rihani, the niece of Ameen Rihani and vice president of the Academy of Educational Development; Adel Al-Jubeir, the special assistant to Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the ambassador of Saudi Arabia; and John Duke Anthony, president and CEO of the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations.

Dr. Billington thanked the Rihani family for the gift of their uncle's papers, and noted that the Library has the published works of Ameen Rihani, "which have graced the Library's bookshelves these many years, and are to be found in the African and Middle Eastern Reading Room."

May Rihani discussed the principles of openness and tolerance that shaped the life and writings of Ameen Rihani and of his tireless efforts to promote better ties between the United States and the Arab world. Adel Al-Jubeir focused on the relations between King Abd al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia and President Roosevelt in the 1930s and how those close personal ties led to strong political and economic ties between their two countries in the following decades. The last speaker, John Duke Anthony, described the important role played by the National Council on U.S.-Arab Relations in promoting a better understanding of the Arab world in the United States. ◆

*Ms. Deeb is an Arab world area specialist in the African and Middle Eastern Division.*



N. Alicia Byers

**Adel Al-Jubeir, the special assistant to Prince Bandar bin Sultan, the ambassador of Saudi Arabia, was at the Library to celebrate that country's centennial; May Rihani, niece of author Ameen Rihani, represented his family in their gift to the Library.**

N. Alicia Byers

Arab rulers and foreign diplomats. Although Rihani and his wife had been divorced, she visited the family in Lebanon in 1953. According to her wishes, her ashes were buried near his mausoleum after her death in New York in 1970 at the age of 91. Their correspondence is included in the collection.

Terri DeYoung, associate professor of Arabic at the University of Washington, called Rihani "one of the pioneers in the literary movement he belonged to." She noted that the Library's acquisition of facsimiles of his papers "is very exciting news for those of us who study the Arab immigrant authors in America, for they had an impact not only on American literature, but also on the developments that took place in Arabic literature in the first half of the 20th century."

Rihani was recognized as early in his career as 1904 in New York and subsequently abroad in Beirut, Cairo and elsewhere. He was elected to life honorary membership in the Italian Art Club of New York and was a member of the Pleiades Club, the Authors Club, the New York Press Club and the Poetry Society of America. His travels were reported in *The New York Times,* and he was entertained by diplomats and men of letters in New York and Boston, as well as in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Morocco, England and Mexico. One of the receptions held for him in the shade of the pyramids attracted 5,000 guests. He was a member of the Arab Academy of Damascus and in 1932 was elected honorary president of the Arab Institute of Studies in Spanish Morocco.

One of the most complete tributes to Rihani was delivered at the Library of Congress in December 1990 by Suheil Badi Bushrui as the Fifth Annual Phillips Lecture: "Arab American Cultural Relations in the 20th century: The Thought and Works of Ameen Rihani with Special Reference to His Writings in English." This comprehensive study described Rihani as "a man who believed passionately in the oneness of the world's religions and the brotherhood of all nations." Mr. Bushrui saw Rihani as "a dedicated liberal," with idealism "tempered with a very practical recognition of the need for an ordered, disciplined society," and the beneficiary of "a rich synthesis of Christian-Muslim traditions." Mr. Bushrui also noted Rihani's deep interest in American authors such as Emerson, Thoreau and Washington Irving.

The Rihani family recently signed an agreement with a publisher in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to publish the correspondence of Ameen Rihani and King Abd al-Aziz of Saudi Arabia, to be followed with editions from Beirut and London. The book will include facsimiles of some of these handwritten historic letters. ◆

*Ms. Birney is the literature specialist in the Manuscript Division.*

# News from the Center for the Book

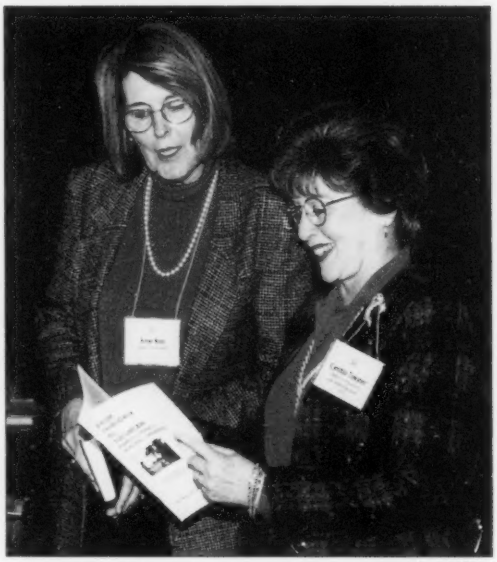
## *Reading Promotion Partners Meet at the Library*

"Today more organizations are promoting reading than at any other time in our country's history," said Center for the Book Director John Y. Cole on March 22 in welcoming participants to the center's annual "idea exchange" for its national reading promotion partners.

"Yet as a nation we continue to experience serious reading and literacy problems. Moreover, many observers worry that those who do not or cannot read in this technological age are rapidly falling behind the rest of society. Our job is to reach as far as we can into all walks of life in demonstrating the essential and practical value of reading to individuals of all ages. And the Internet gives reading promoters new opportunities."

More than 30 educational and civic organizations sent representatives to the meeting in the Library's Mumford Room, which was decorated with reading promotion posters and filled with descriptive literature about current and future promotion projects sponsored by the center's network of reading promotion partners. (For a full list of partners, visit the Center for the Book's site on the World Wide Web at: **www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook**).

Mr. Cole described the center's reading promotion network and partnership program, which was established in 1987 with the center's national "Year of the Reader" campaign (see LC *Information Bulletin*, March 1998). The network's annual meeting at the Library of Congress brings the partners together to describe their organization's activities and learn about reading and literacy programs in which they can become involved. A brochure distributed at the meeting outlined ways that partners and other organizations could use the center's current promotion theme, "Building a Nation of Readers." Center for the Book Program Specialist Anne Boni, who represents the center at many meetings organized by partner organizations, pointed out how mutual support of each other's projects and themes widened the audience for all projects and themes.



Lorenzo Wright

**The Center for the Book's Anne Boni and Cindy Towsner of the U.S. Department of Education discuss a family literacy publication.**

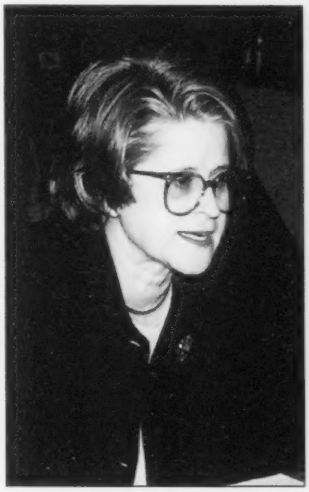
Center for the Book Program Officer Maurvene Williams discussed the growing importance of the center's Web site in providing information about organizations and their reading and literacy projects. In February 1998, for example, the site handled 15,000 transactions; in February 1999, 21,000. She announced a new "Building a Nation of Readers" feature that also will mark the Library of Congress's Bicentennial in the year 2000. Partner organizations as well as individual libraries, schools and government agencies are invited to describe one reading promotion project (in 50 words or less) for posting on the Center for the Book's Web site. The goal is to have 200 projects posted by April 24, 2000 — the Library's 200th birthday.

Lorenzo Wright

**Mary Brigid Barrett, founder and president of the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, with Center for the Book Director John Cole**

Following the first presentation, by Carol Rasco, director of the U.S. Department of Education's "America Reads Challenge," each reading promotion partner made a brief presentation about his or her organization and its activities. Moderator John Cole introduced several new partners, including the Academy of American Poets, the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, the Children's Creative Writing Campaign, the National Center for Learning Disabilities, the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance, the National Endowment for the Arts, First Book and the National Geographic Society.

Center for the Book Consultant Virginia Mathews, who directs the Center for the Book/Viburnum Foundation Family Literacy Project, concluded the day's presentations. She summarized six important "current trends" or "hot topics" in reading promotion projects for young people. Ms. Mathews believes that these trends, if acted upon, could lead to new collaborative projects for their respective organizations. They are: family literacy projects; out-of-school reading and literacy programs; mentoring, particularly community-based mentoring programs; projects that include parental involvement; "very" early childhood projects, e.g. "Born to Read"; and cooperative projects with health organizations. ◆



Lorenzo Wright

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**Carol Rasco, director of "America Reads" (left), with Sandra Maccarone of the Weekly Reader Corp., cosponsor of the "Letters About Literature" project**

# Letters About Literature

## *National Winners Announced by Center for the Book*

Two junior high school-level students have been named winners in this year's Letters About Literature essay contest, which is sponsored by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress and the Weekly Reader Corp. Approximately 20,000 students and 100 judges from across the country participated in this national reading-writing program this year.

Letters About Literature invites students to write a personal letter to an author–living or dead–explaining how the author's work somehow changed their lives.

Kelly McAnerney, a seventh grade student at Seneca Valley Middle School in Harmony, Pa., won the national prize in Level I competition, grades 4-7, for her letter to Jerry Spinelli, author of the humorous young adult novel *Crash*. Penn, a misfit character in the novel, helped Kelly to see the maliciousness of teasing and bullying that goes on in her own school environment.

She wrote Spinelli, "*Crash* pushed me into doing what I'd often denied my conscience: being nice. Your novel handed me a new pair of sneakers to walk life's roads, and they fit wonderfully."

Bradley Farberman, an eighth grade student at Woodmere Middle School in Hewlett, N.Y., won the national prize in Level II competition, grades 8-12, for his letter to Woody Guthrie about Guthrie's autobiography, *Bound for Glory*. The book inspired Bradley, who like Guthrie, writes songs and plays a guitar. After reading *Bound for Glory*, Bradley made a commitment to himself to "speak his mind and to talk real loud" about hope and beauty. He would love one day to travel across the country, as Woody Guthrie did, singing songs about everyday Americans.

"Books give young people wings," said Cathy Gourley, director of the national program, "wings to cope with peer pressure and parental divorce, wings to rise above prejudice and discover a pride in cultural and racial heritage. These were just some of the themes students explored in their letters this year."

State-level winners were also selected by 26 participating state center for the book affiliates. For further information call Weekly Reader at (203) 705-3500.

The Center for the Book in the Library of Congress was established in 1977 to stimulate public interest in books, reading and libraries. Its program, which is supported mostly by private funds, reaches into every region of the country through a network of 36 affiliated state centers and more than 50 national educational and civic organizations. For more information about the Center for the Book, visit its Web site at **www.loc.gov/loc/cfbook**. ◆

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